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Cockermouth

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health


and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year

1955

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health to Cockermouth Rural District.

The work done by this department, although only spectacular when an epidemic of some sort occurs, entails a large amount of thought, time and organisation, and we have endeavoured to show all that has been done in the year by the statistics compiled in this report.

My thanks are due to Mr. R. E. Dunn, the Sanitary Inspector, for his earnest co-operation and help at all times, and to Mr. J. D. Hinde not only for his interest in helping to compile this report but for his help and co-operation which is freely given at all times. I should also like to express my appreciation of the kindness shown to me by the Members of the Council and the staff of the various departments of the Council.

Each year observers of rainfall in various parts of the district allow me to use their figures in this report, and I should like to extend my thanks to them for their courtesy.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PATTERSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. PATTERSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

R. E. DUNN, C.R.S.I.

(Certificates held:

Royal Sanitary Institute as

(a) Sanitary Inspector,

(b) Inspector of Meats and other Foods)

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

G. J. SIMPSON, C.R.S.I.

(Certificates held:

Royal Sanitary Institute as

(a) Sanitary Inspector,

(b) Inspector of Meats and other Foods.

City & Guilds 1st Class Certificate in Plumbing)

Clerk and Assistant :

J. D. HINDE.

STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF AREA

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-1955) ...	19,500
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	6,071
Rateable value at 31st December, 1955	£100,029
Product of a Penny Rate (1.4.55—31.3.56)	£388 0s. 7d.

The Cockermouth Rural District covers an area of 161,312 acres or approximately 250 square miles. 4,700 acres of the district are covered by inland water.

The Rural Area covers the north west portion of the Lake District of Cumberland and is bounded on the north by Wigton Rural District, on the east by Penrith Rural District, on the south west by Ennerdale Rural District and touches the County boundary at Dunmail Raise to the south.

The Borough of Workington adjoins the west and the Urban Districts of Maryport, Cockermouth and Keswick are surrounded by the Rural Area.

There are 32 parishes.

Generally speaking the eastern part of the district is mountainous and forms part of the Lake District National Park. Sheep farming is predominant and catering for holidaymakers forms a large local industry.

In the west of the district lies a coal mining area, part of the West Cumberland coalfield, and the villages there are more industrial in character. Various industries near the coast also give employment to people in these villages. There is also a considerable amount of dairy farming and much good arable land forms the edge of the Solway Plain in the Crosby and Oughterside areas.

There are two short lengths of coastline between Workington and Maryport and between Maryport and the boundary of Wigton Rural District, the latter stretch being much used in summer by holidaymakers.

STATISTICS

The tables of vital statistics are set out below, showing birth rates, death rates, and rates for maternal and infantile mortality.

Crude birth and death rates are corrected by means of an Area Comparability Factor supplied each year by the Registrar General. They allow for the varying age and sex distribution of each district and enable comparisons to be made with figures for other areas.

This year the factor for births is .98 and for deaths 1.01.

The total live births were 262, a decrease on the previous year, resulting in a birth-rate of 13.4 (13.2 corrected) compared with 13.6 in 1954. Nine of the births were illegitimate.

There were 5 still births which represent a rate of 19.1 per thousand live births.

The number of deaths at all ages was 229 which gives a death rate of 11.75 (11.9 corrected) compared with 11.6 (11.7 corrected) in 1954.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

There were 10 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, which shows a slight increase over last year, half of the deaths being due to prematurity and occurring in the first week of life.

An increase in deaths from cancer occurred, 9 more than last year, of which 8 were of females. Cancer of the lungs and bronchus, however, remained the same as last year (3 deaths).

No deaths from tuberculosis occurred during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population of the Rural District 19,500

LIVE BIRTHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1,000 pop. corrected
1950	Legitimate	162	153	315			
	Illegitimate	5	4	9	324	16.7	18.04
1951	Legitimate	152	151	303			
	Illegitimate	2	9	11	314	16.05	17.3
1952	Legitimate	150	124	274			
	Illegitimate	6	6	12	286	14.7	15.8
1953	Legitimate	149	132	281			
	Illegitimate	2	2	4	285	14.7	15.8
1954	Legitimate	127	129	256			
	Illegitimate	5	4	9	265	13.6	13.4
1955	Legitimate	140	113	253			
	Illegitimate	2	7	9	262	13.4	13.2

STILL BIRTHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Grand Total	Rate per 1,000 of population
1950	Legitimate	3	5	8		
	Illegitimate	—	1	1	9	0.46
1951	Legitimate	5	3	8		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	8	0.40
1952	Legitimate	2	1	3		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	3	0.15
1953	Legitimate	4	4	8		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	8	0.41
1954	Legitimate	8	3	11		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	11	0.57
1955	Legitimate	3	2	5		
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	5	0.26

DEATHS

Year		Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1,000 pop. uncorrected	Rate per 1,000 pop. corrected
1950	... ..	138	107	245	12.6	12.1
1951	... ..	119	115	234	11.9	11.4
1952	... ..	125	114	239	12.3	11.8
1953	... ..	121	111	232	11.9	11.4
1954	... ..	127	98	225	11.6	11.7
1955	... ..	121	108	229	11.75	11.9

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
1950	... 0	—
1951	... 0	—
1952	... 1 (Maternal causes)	3.4
1953	... 0	—
1954	... 0	—
1955	... 0	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

			Deaths of infants under 1 yr.	All infants per 1,000 live births	Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births
1950	...	...	14	43	41	111
1951	...	...	12	38	33	182
1952	...	...	16	56	51	167
1953	...	...	8	28	28	—
1954	...	...	6	23	23	—
1955	...	...	10	38	38	—

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE

			Pulmonary T.B. deaths	Other T.B. deaths	Total T.B. deaths	Pulmonary T.B. death rate per 1,000 pop.	Total T.B. death rate per 1,000 population
1950	...	...	8	1	9	.41	.46
1951	...	...	2	2	4	.10	.20
1952	...	...	2	1	3	.10	.15
1953	...	...	6	0	6	.31	.31
1954	...	...	2	0	2	.10	.10
1955	...	...	0	0	0	—	—

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES (uncorrected)

			1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
BIRTH RATE :								
England & Wales	...		15.8	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.0
County of Cumberland	...		17.6	17.1	17.3	16.7	16.4	16.4
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...		17.4	17.1	17.0	16.2	15.7	16.1
Cockermouth Rural	...		16.7	16.05	14.7	14.7	13.6	13.4
DEATH RATE:								
England & Wales	...		11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7
County of Cumberland	...		12.6	13.2	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.2
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...		12.0	13.1	11.6	11.9	12.1	12.3
Cockermouth Rural	...		12.6	11.9	12.3	11.9	11.6	11.75
INFANTILE MORTALITY :								
England & Wales	...		30	30	28	27	26	25
County of Cumberland	...		35	34	32	27	28	28
Rural Districts of Cumb.	...		37	35	34	24	30	29
Cockermouth Rural	...		43	38	56	28	23	38

CAUSES OF DEATH

		Males	Females
...	...		
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0
2	" Other	0	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningo-Coccal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2
11	" " lung	2	1
12	" " breast	0	5
13	" " Uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	0
16	Diabetes	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	16
18	Coronary disease, angina	30	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
20	Other heart disease	25	33
21	Other circulatory disease	3	5
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	1	1
24	Bronchitis	8	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	1	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34	All other accidents	2	1
35	Suicide	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
	TOTALS	121	108

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths under 1 year showing varying causes and ages.

Cause of Death	under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	5				5					5
Lobar Pneumonia ...			1		1			1		2
Broncho-pneumonia ...									1	1
Congenital malformation ...						1	1			2
Total	5	1			6	1	1	1	1	10

SENILE DEATH RATE

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
65—70	17	7	24
70—75	23	23	46
75—80	15	19	34
80—85	15	13	28
85—90	5	11	16
90—95	1	2	3
Totals	76	75	151
SENILE DEATH RATE 65.8% of total deaths (1954—67.5)			

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE

Cause		No. of Deaths	% of all causes	Rate per 1,000 of population
Suicide	1954	1	.44	.052
	1955	0	—	—
Road traffic accidents	1954	1	.44	.052
	1955	3	1.31	.154
Other violence	1954	6	2.66	.309
	1955	3	1.31	.154
Total	1954	8	3.56	.413
	1955	6	2.62	.308

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Site of Disease					Males	Females
Alimentary :	Stomach	...	...	...	5	2
	Oesophagus	...	...	...	0	1
	Colon	...	...	...	1	0
	Rectum	...	...	...	4	0
Respiratory :	Lung	...	...	...	1	1
	Bronchus	...	...	...	1	0
Glandular :	Breast	...	...	...	0	5
	Prostate	...	...	...	1	0
	Lymphatic glands	...	...	...	1	0
Reproductive:	Ovaries	...	...	...	0	4
Other :	Liver	...	...	...	0	1
	Thigh	...	...	...	1	0
	Multiple metastises	...	...	...	2	0
	Peritoneum	...	...	...	0	1
Totals	...	...	...	...	17	15

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
between 20 and 30	1	0	1
30 and 40	0	2	2
40 and 50	1	0	1
50 and 60	1	3	4
60 and 70	5	3	8
70 and 80	6	4	10
80 and 90	3	3	6
Totals	17	15	32
CANCER DEATH RATE 1.64 per 1,000 population (1954 : 1.18 per 1,000 population)			
Approximately 1 death in 8 was due to Cancer			

Table showing Rainfall in inches, in 1955, compiled from observers in various parts of the district

Observation Station	At Grothwaite, Keswick, about 440 yds. from the Cockermouth Rural District boundary	Dale Head Hall, Thirlmere	Blackwood, Braithwaite	Cockermouth within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Rural District boundary
Observer	T. Wilson, Esq.	Alan Atkinson, Esq. Engineer to Manchester Corporation Waterworks	C. Barnes, Esq.	M. M. Dixon, Esq. Surveyor
Diameter of Rain Gauge Funnel	5 inches	5 inches	8 inches	5 inches
Height of Gauge above ground	1 foot	1 foot	1 foot	1 foot
Height of Gauge above sea level	254 feet	620 feet	400 feet	330 feet
1955	ins.	ins.	ins.	ins.
January ...	4.72	7.19	4.41	2.86
February ...	1.69	3.69	1.90	0.99
March ...	1.38	2.75	1.23	1.27
April ...	1.99	3.09	2.56	2.48
May ...	6.08	6.98	6.38	3.32
June ...	3.24	5.35	4.09	4.29
July ...	2.63	3.61	3.22	2.70
August ...	4.36	4.13	3.91	2.06
September ...	4.14	5.23	5.31	1.91
October ...	3.44	6.02	4.16	2.18
November ...	2.20	4.25	2.66	1.30
December ...	8.28	11.45	9.23	4.69
Totals ...	44.5	63.74	49.06	30.05
Average prev. 5 years 1950—54 (incl.)	62.32 (Av. 53 yrs. 57.83)	91.23 (Av. 78 yrs. 83.16)	72.53	46.49

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of infectious diseases notified in 1955 was 126 (161 in 1954). Excluding measles and whooping cough the number is 54 (41 in 1954).

There were no notifications of Acute Poliomyelitis, Enteric Fever or Food Poisoning.

Although no notification of Typhoid was received by this authority, an extensive investigation lasting six weeks was undertaken by the department. A male who normally resides in this area was diagnosed as having typhoid whilst a patient in hospital. Another case occurred in a neighbouring town at the same time. An exhaustive search failed to find the source of the infection in this area, but advice was given to numerous contacts who were supervised for a period of three weeks. Adequate precautions were taken and no further cases occurred.

The 10 cases of dysentery occurred in several parishes and investigations detected only one carrier who was subsequently treated. The infection in the other cases was deduced to have originated outside the area. Precautions were taken to prevent the spread of disease from infected persons. In the case of the notification from a school camp, advice was given and the camp supervised until it closed. Contacts were notified to the responsible authorities on the return of the children to their homes. It is fairly certain that the girl affected was infected before she came to the camp from another county.

While the tables show the distribution of new Tuberculosis cases, it may be of interest to give the position at the end of 1955 :

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER				
		Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	...	53	90	143
Non-pulmonary	...	4	11	15
		—	—	—
Totals	...	57	101	158
		—	—	—

IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA

Figures, kindly supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer, are given in tabular form showing the number of Diphtheria Immunisations carried out, and the position at the end of 1955.

Once again, no case of diphtheria was notified during the year, the last notified confirmed case being in 1947.

B.C.G. (TUBERCULOSIS)

With the approval of the Ministry of Health in 1955, Mantoux Testing, Mass Radiography and B.C.G. Vaccination where necessary were offered to all school children in their fourteenth year. The organisation, administration and execution of this scheme were carried out by the School Health Service under the County Medical Officer of Health. The testing and vaccination in the schools in this area were carried out by myself.

It should be pointed out that testing and vaccination was only done when the parents of the children gave consent, however the response was most gratifying.

The result of the X-ray examination was noted before Mantoux testing was commenced, and the testing was done either at the clinic or at outlying schools.

The result of the initial intracutaneous 1/1000 Mantoux test (positive or negative) was read after three days and those children found to be negative were given B.C.G. Eight weeks after vaccination a post-B.C.G. Mantoux test was carried out and read three days later to determine if Tuberculin Conversion had taken place.

The total number of children in this age group tested in the Cockermouth Rural District was 110 and the percentage of positive reactors (i.e. those who have had contact at some time with the Tubercle Bacillus) was 24.5. This compares favourably with the results obtained in other areas of West Cumberland.

Area	13 year old children (born 1941—tested 1955)		
	% positive		
Maryport	35.2
Workington	34.1
Whitehaven	35.0
Ennerdale R.D.	38.8
Millom R.D.	42.4
Cockermouth R.D.	24.5
Average : West Cumberland	36.0
Cumberland County	30.4

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION UNDERTAKEN DURING 1955

[illegible]

STATE OF IMMUNISATION AT END OF 1955

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time to 31/12/54										
Age at 31/12/55 i.e. born in year	under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	Total under 5 years 1946-1950	5-9 1941-1945	10-14 1941-1945	Total 5-14 years	Total under 15 years
Number immunised	7	84	174	185	202	652	1547	1461	3008	3660

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATION, 1955

	Total Cases	Males	Females	Cases per 1,000 pop.	Cases admitted to hosp.	Deaths of cases	Monthly incident of disease											
							Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	4	3	.36					1	3	1	1				1		
Whooping Cough ...	9	4	5	.46					1	1	6	1						
Acute Poliomyelitis { Paralytic . Non-Paralytic .	63	35	28	3.2														
Measles ...							2	23	11	15	11						1	
Diphtheria ...	4	3	1	.21	2		2							1				1
Acute Pneumonia ...	10	2	8	.52	2							3	1	3				3
Dysentery ...																		
Smallpox ...																		
Acute Encephalitis { Infective . Post-infectious																		
Enteric or Typhoid Fever																		
Paratyphoid Fevers ...	3		3	.15												1	1	1
Erysipelas ...																		
Meningococcal infection ...																		
Food poisoning... ..	3		3	.15					1							1	1	
Puerperal pyrexia ...																		
Ophthalmia neonatorum	23	7	16	1.18	23		3		4	4	3	2	1	1		2	1	2
Tuberculosis { Respiratory Meninges & C.N.S. ... Other forms	4		4	.21	4				2		1			1				
Totals ...	126	55	71	6.5	31		7	23	20	23	22	7	2	6		5	4	7

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1955

	Total Cases	Age distribution									Distribution by Parishes																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
		Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—44 years	45—64 years	Over 65 years	Above Derwent	Allerby &c.	Bassenthwaite	Bewaldeth	Blinderake	Bothel &c.	Bridekirk	Broughton	Broughton Moor	Blindbothel	Borrowdale	Brigham	Buttermere	Camerton	Clifton, Gt.	Clifton, Lt.	Crosscanonby	Dearham	Dean	Embleton	Gilerux	Greysouthen	Lorton	Loweswater	Papcastle	Plumbland	Seaton	St. Johns	Setmurthery	Undersiddaw	Winscales	Wythop																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cockermouth Rural District Council. .

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on Public Health work carried out during the year 1955.

Long periods of favourable and even glorious weather made work in the District more pleasurable and the advantage was taken of carrying out the bulk of a parish-by-parish survey recording premises, water supplies and drainage. In most other spheres a deal of specific and routine work was done of which details are set out in the ensuing pages .

The departure at the end of the year of Mr. G. A. W. Hepple to take up a senior appointment was looked upon with regret, though regarded as inevitable. I am glad to report that he is happy and fully occupied in his new appointment. His successor, Mr. G. J. Simpson, fits comfortably into the vacant chair.

I would also record the continued close and friendly co-operation between this and other Departments, where help and advice sought are freely given. The unfailing courtesy, help and appreciation of the Council and its individual members has again been gratifying.

Finally, I would express my thanks to the versatile Mr. J. D. Hinde of this Department who has ably carried out a multiplicity of duties and who, in this Report, has supplied the several new ideas incorporated in it and compiled the statistical information it contains.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROWLAND E. DUNN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

1. NEW BUILDING

During 1955 one hundred houses have been completed in the district, 26 privately built, and 74 by the North Eastern Housing Association on behalf of the Council. Tables below set out their distribution and show the full position at 31st December.

The Minister's allocation to the Council for the year was 50 houses and at the end of the year 48 houses were in progress, 30 at Broughton Moor and 18 at Oughterside, the ones at Broughton Moor being the first batch on a site for 70 which is to be developed by the Council by direct contract and not through the North Eastern Housing Association.

It is too early yet to assess the benefits that may arise from this move, but it was hoped that a well-designed, well-built house at a rent comparable to others built at the same time would result.

The Council's scheme to buy a site at Crosby, provide roads, sewers and water mains and sell off plots to private developers is now making some progress. During the summer of 1955 negotiations to purchase the field were started, but objections were raised by the owner and tenant. The long process of a Compulsory Purchase Order was then put into operation. The owner first, and the tenant later withdrew their objections, and the Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 30th December, 1955.

It is hoped that the land will be purchased and works commenced early in 1956.

The following table shows the number of houses completed by the North Eastern Housing Association during the year :

Village	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Gt. Clifton	—	—	19	—	1	—	5	8	12	11	8	4	68
Camerton	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Totals	—	—	19	—	1	6	5	8	12	11	8	4	74

The following table shows the houses built privately during the year :

Above Derwent	...	...	...	8	
Bidekirk	...	...	...	1	
Brigham	...	...	...	2	
Crosscanonby	...	...	...	1	
Dean	...	...	...	1	
Seaton	...	...	...	5	
				<hr/>	18
					<hr/>
In addition the following were completed by other Authorities :					
Braithwaite	...	...	...	8	8
(Forestry Commission)					
					<hr/>
					26
					<hr/>
					26
					<hr/>
TOTAL HOUSES BUILT DURING 1955					<hr/>
					100
					<hr/>

The following tables show the position as at 31st December, 1955 :

TABLE 1
HOUSES BUILT AND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL :

Pre-war :					
Seaton (Lowca Lane)	...	...	...	12	
Seaton (Derwent Avenue)	...	...	...	28	
Great Clifton (Gatehead)	...	...	...	36	
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	...	...	...	12	
Belle Vue	...	...	...	8	
Prospect (Sea View)	...	...	...	12	
Broughton (Coldgill Avenue)	...	...	...	12	
Braithwaite (Croft Terrace)	...	...	...	4	
			Total		124
Post—war .					
Seaton (Leslie's Estate)	...	...	...	34	34
					<hr/>
Total houses built and owned by the Council					<hr/>
					158
					<hr/>

TABLE II

HOUSES BUILT AND OWNED BY THE N.E.H.A. :

Pre-war and wartime

Dearham (Croft Crescent)	...	40	
Braithwaite (Croft Terrace)	...	6	
Crosby (East End)	...	2	
Seaton (Barncroft Avenue)	...	70	
Broughton (Grange Avenue)	...	20	
Great Clifton (The Gavels)	...	36	
Great Clifton (Bowflatts)	...	70	
Broughton Moor (Lucock Avenue)	...	32	
Plumbland (Morningside)	...	2	
Pardshaw (The Lea)	...	2	
	Total		280

Post-war :

Crosby (Suncroft)	...	30	
Dearham (Towncroft)	...	78	
Dearham (Row Brow)	...	6	
Seaton (Hunters Drive Area)	...	187	
Bothel (The Croft)	...	12	
Bassenthwaite (The Avenue)	...	6	
Bassenthwaite (The Orchard)	...	6	
Bassenthwaite (Lilac Cottages)	...	2	
Brigham (The Hill)	...	32	
Brigham (Hill Crescent)	...	20	
Broughton (Ghyllbank)	...	96	
Little Clifton (Valley View)	...	32	
Little Clifton (The Garth)	...	2	
Oughterside (School Terrace)	...	4	
Applethwaite (Raven Lane)	...	4	
Crosscanonby (The Garth)	...	2	
Camerton (Meadow Croft)	...	4	
Camerton (Greenend)	...	2	
Camerton (Kirkland)	...	6	
Bridekirk (New Houses)	...	2	
Great Clifton (Stoneycroft)	...	44	
Great Clifton (Clifton Lodge)	...	45	
Great Clifton (Greengarth)	...	68	
Broughton Moor (Moorfields)	...	32	
Deanscales (The Hill)	...	6	
Plumbland (The Muslins)	...	20	
Blinderake (The Oaks)	...	4	
Allerby (Green End)	...	2	
Gilerux (The Garth)	...	2	
Greysouthen (Went Meadows)	...	12	
Rosthwaite (Middlehow)	...	12	
Winscales (Meadowvale)	...	2	
Lorton (Broomcroft)	...	4	
Braithwaite (Longcroft)	...	14	
	Total		800

Total houses built and owned by N.E.H.A.	1080	1080
Total houses belonging to N.E.H.A. or Council		1238

TABLE III
 HOUSES BUILT IN EACH POST-WAR YEAR :

Year		Private	Municipal
1946	...	17	30
1947	...	24	108
1948	...	16	154
1949	...	11	88
1950	...	5	110
1951	...	20	54
1952	...	20	64
1953	...	19	70
1954	...	35	82
1955	...	26	74
Totals		193	834
Averages (1946-1955)		19.3	83.4

TABLE IV
 HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION :

Broughton Moor	...	30
Oughterside	...	18
Private	...	16
		64

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

Judging by the small number of enquiries received and the rent increases which have come to our notice, this Act appears to be virtually moribund in this district insofar as the provisions regarding rents are concerned.

No applications have been made for certificates of dis-repair.

2. IMPROVEMENTS TO DWELLINGS

Enquiries and applications for grants under the Housing Act, 1949, have increased spectacularly this year, the number of schemes approved and the number completed being almost equal to the five previous years combined. Much good work is being done in this way, sub-standard houses being made fit and good houses made better by the addition of modern amenities.

The following table shows the number of grants approved and completed to the end of 1955 :

YEAR	APPROVED		COMPLETED	
	Schemes	Houses Involved	Schemes	Houses Involved
1950	2	2	—	—
1951	5	6	2	2
1952	6	11	8	8
1953	8	8	5	5
1954	17	20	8	14
1955	31	33	22	23
	69	80	45	52

The Council's own Improvement Scheme at Furnace Row, Distington, involving the conversion of 22 cottages into 11 modernised bungalows is now nearing completion, 8 of the 11 having been completed by the end of December, and work being well advanced with the remaining three.

3. SLUM CLEARANCE

During 1955, nine houses were represented under Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, as being unfit and incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. Undertakings were accepted by the Council in the case of 6 houses, the remainder having either Closing Orders or Demolition Orders served.

In pursuance of demolition orders previously served, 4 houses were demolished in 1955. , ,

In accordance with Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act proposals for dealing with 144 unfit houses during the next five years were approved by the Council and subsequently by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. In submitting these proposals, the Council undertook to provide accommodation on each new housing site sufficient for the needs of tenants of scheduled houses in that area. By the end of December, 18 tenants of such properties had been re-housed.

Housing Appendix

STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	183
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	281
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932) (Brought up to date)	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	102

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	55
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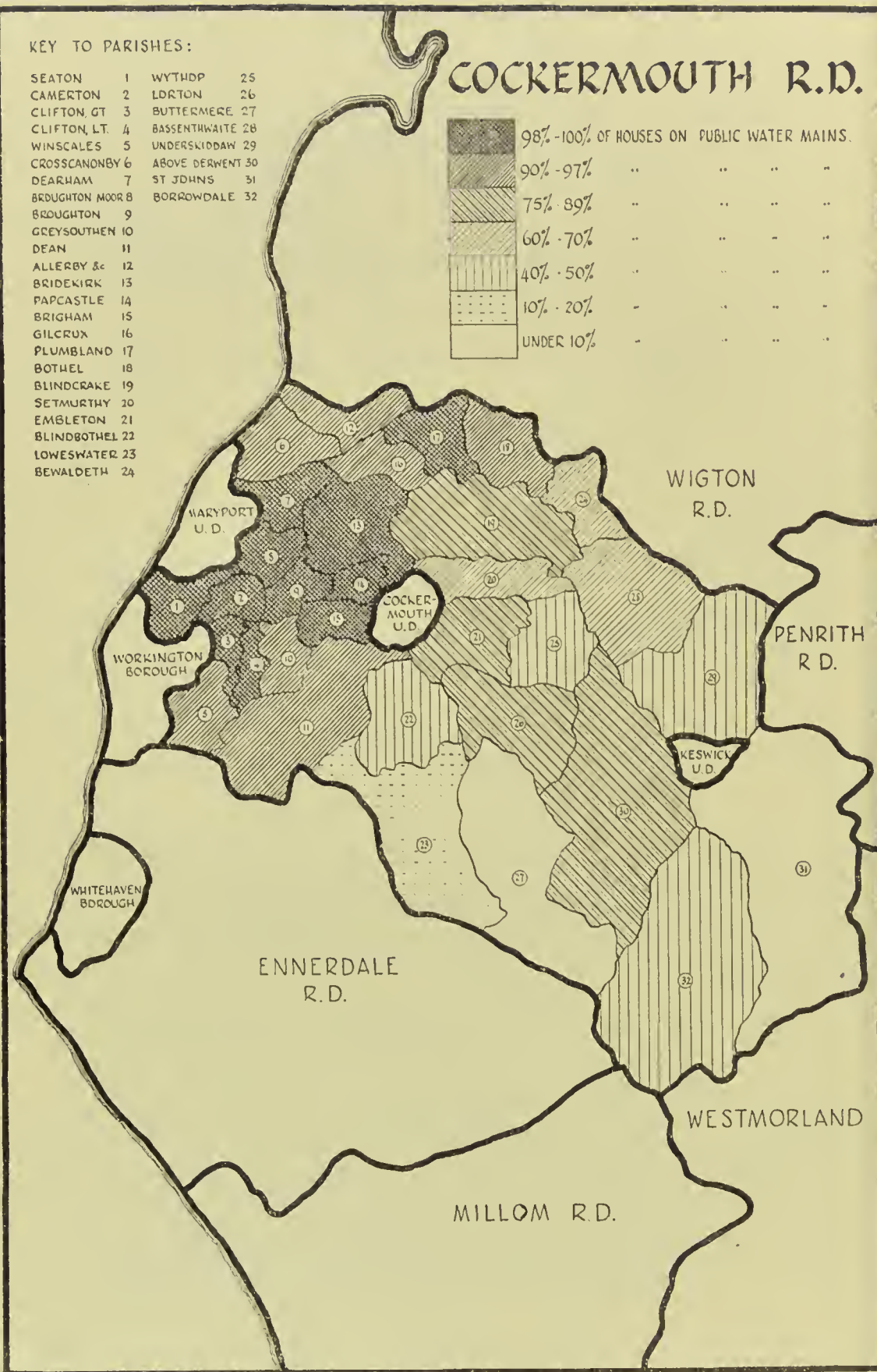
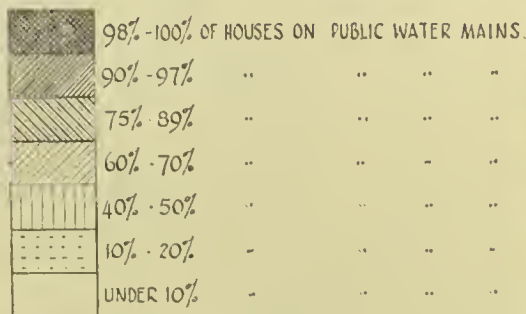
3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

KEY TO PARISHES:

SEATON	1	WYTHOP	25
CAMERTON	2	LDRTON	26
CLIFTON, GT	3	BUTTERMERE	27
CLIFTON, LT.	4	BASSENTHWAITE	28
WINSKALES	5	UNDERSKIDDAW	29
CROSSCANONBY	6	ABOVE DERWENT	30
DEARHAM	7	ST JOHNS	31
BROUGHTON MOOR	8	BORROWDALE	32
BROUGHTON	9		
GREYSOUTHEN	10		
DEAN	11		
ALLERBY &c	12		
BRIDEKIRK	13		
PAPCASTLE	14		
BRIGHAM	15		
GILCRUX	16		
PLUMBLAND	17		
BOTHEL	18		
BLINDCRAKE	19		
SETMURTHY	20		
EMBLETON	21		
BLINDBOTHEL	22		
LOWESWATER	23		
BEWALDETH	24		

COCKERMOUTH R.D.



WATER SUPPLY

As the statistical tables overleaf and the map opposite will show, all the more heavily populated parishes are served by public supplies.

Despite long periods of drought the Engineer's Department were successful in averting any semblance of a crisis, although there were, of course, individual consumers who were short of water.

A larger number of water samples were submitted for analysis than hitherto and the results are tabulated on page 30.

There are no properties in the Rural District which are supplied by standpipes provided by the local authority (Section 128, Public Health Act, 1936).

PROPOSED JOINT WATER BOARD

In order to improve the supply to parts of the district served by the Crummock main, the Council, together with Maryport U.D.C., who are extremely short of water, have engaged a consultant engineer to prepare a scheme to extract water from the River Derwent at Cockermouth. The water would be filtered and treated and pumped to a large storage reservoir at Broughton Moor whence the two authorities would take supplies into their respective distribution mains.

IMPROVEMENTS AND EXTENSIONS :

During the year the Engineering Department have carried out the following works :

Hause Ghyll Supply :

The 8,000 yards of 5" main were completed on the extension from Tallantire Hill to Broughton Moor. This extension connects the Hause Ghyll supply with the reservoir at Broughton Moor fed from the Crummock Main. It enables the surplus water from the Hause Ghyll scheme to be fed to Broughton Moor and the higher parts of Seaton, thus reducing the demands on the Crummock trunk main.

Housing Site Extensions :

77 yards of 3" and 52 yards of 1½" asbestos pipe were laid at Oughterside.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY

PARISH	AREA IN ACRES	TOTAL HOUSES	ESTIMATE OF POPULAT- ION	REFUSE
				Houses served by collection
Above Derwent	14756	419	1376	383
Allerby, &c.	2382	179	635	176
Bassenthwaite	6915	128	409	117
Bewaldeth	2631	13	44	—
Blinderake	6901	100	359	63
Bothel	3390	98	291	94
Bridekirk	4799	131	726	119
Broughton	1360	471	1331	427
Broughton Moor	1736	246	944	197
Blindbothel	4499	53	194	25
Borrowdale	16663	146	510	136
Brigham	1759	243	720	241
Buttermere	11231	44	174	38
Camerton	1402	69	205	69
Clifton, Great	997	502	1448	502
Clifton, Little	1080	137	438	137
Crosceanonby	2398	270	853	266
Dearham	2149	553	1843	553
Dean	8527	220	730	211
Embleton	3951	100	339	49
Gilerux	2017	104	340	83
Greysouthen	1646	148	491	139
Lorton	5501	100	258	88
Loweswater	9411	64	204	49
Papcastle	1108	93	260	88
Plumband	2568	157	527	137
Seaton	2040	886	2581	886
St. Johns	19481	165	481	111
Setmurthy	3298	42	138	21
Underskiddaw	8711	103	345	103
Winscales	2652	65	235	42
Wythop	3353	22	71	16
TOTALS	161312	6071	19500	5566

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY		SEWERING		
Houses supplied from public mains	Estimate of population supplied by public mains	Houses connected to public sewer	Houses with private septic tanks	Houses without modern sanitation
354	1162	240	170	9
170	605	155	13	11
79	253	58	50	20
9	30	—	7	6
87	314	69	16	15
92	271	86	7	5
129	720	94	25	12
471	1331	419	50	2
242	930	202	29	15
25	94	—	36	17
73	260	75	68	3
240	711	191	47	5
—	—	—	36	8
69	205	52	11	6
497	1433	493	4	5
137	458	136	—	1
262	830	242	10	18
549	1828	513	21	19
212	702	141	35	44
77	300	47	37	16
101	330	78	19	7
142	470	103	34	11
75	178	71	17	12
10	35	10	34	20
92	256	87	6	—
154	513	136	13	8
884	2574	853	28	5
3	11	49	85	31
28	110	11	20	11
72	241	63	31	9
61	225	29	18	18
9	34	2	17	3
5405	17394	4705	994	372

WATER SAMPLES

Thirty-eight samples of drinking water were taken during the year, and the results may be summarised as follows :

PUBLIC SUPPLIES :

Holme Beck Supply	10. 5.55	Highly satisfactory
Lorten Village Supply	10. 5.55	Highly satisfactory
Braithwaite Village Supply	10. 5.55	Highly satisfactory
Portinscale Village Supply	1. 6.55	Satisfactory
Bassenthwaite Village Supply	20. 9.55	Unsatisfactory
Rosthwaite Village Supply	4. 4.55	Satisfactory
Crummock Supply	12.11.55	Highly satisfactory
Hauseghyll (Bewaldeth)	17. 8.55	Satisfactory
Hauseghyll (Moota)	7. 9.55	Unsatisfactory
Hauseghyll (Moota)	27. 9.55	Unsatisfactory
Hauseghyll (Moota)	25.10.55	Highly satisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples from Hauseghyll were taken during and after a temporary breakdown in the chlorination plant.

PROPOSED PUBLIC SUPPLIES :

Grange in Borrowdale	8.11.55	Suspicious
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TAKEN BY WORKINGTON CORPORATION :

4 samples taken before and after chlorination all show a satisfactory water on the Crummock supply. I am grateful to the Officials of Workington Corporation for supplying copies of their sample results.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES :

22 samples were taken during the year from private water supplies, generally at the request of the owner or occupier.

Only five samples were reported as highly satisfactory, and in the remaining cases advice was given on improving the quality of the water.

It should be noted that of the 17 unsatisfactory or suspicious samples 9 were taken from one supply, and arrangements are in hand for connecting the properties to the public mains.

SEWERS AND DRAINS

The table set out on pages 28 and 29 of this report reflects the position regarding sewerage, drainage and sewage disposal in the District. It is gratifying to learn how many of the isolated properties outside sewered areas have provided themselves with modern sanitation by way of W.C.s connected to septic tanks. The census of 1951 showed that 535 households were without a W.C. The figure is now reduced to 372.

In response to the re-submission of the proposals of the Council for the sewerage of the village of Branthwaite, the Minister arranged for an Engineering Enquiry and the need for the scheme was amply demonstrated to the Inspector who conducted the Enquiry.

The outcome is awaited.

Approval has been given to the Council's proposals to sewer part of the village of Bullgill, although no grant will be available towards the cost.

At the village of Thornthwaite, where new development continued during the year, the position steadily worsens and to date the Ministry have declined to sanction the start of the sewerage scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The total cost of this service for the year was £4,436 17s. 5d. and covered approximately 5,566 houses, which gives a figure of roughly 15/11d. per house per annum or 3½d. per week.

The table on pages 28 and 29 gives the approximate number of houses in each parish from which refuse is collected.

A direct labour scheme prepared by the Council's Engineer has been approved by the Council and should be in operation by next year.

The aim is to purchase two additional refuse vehicles, engage staff, and collect all refuse by the Council's own vehicles and employees. At present about half of the district is covered by one refuse vehicle owned by the Council, the remaining part of the area being dealt with by private contractors, with, in some cases, irregular collection and unsuitable vehicles.

It is hoped that eventually a weekly collection for every house in the district will be provided at a cost not substantially greater than under the present system.

FOOD

1. MEAT

Although there are 10 licenced slaughterhouses in the district slaughtering has been carried out regularly at only 6 of these. At the remainder only sheep or pigs have been killed at infrequent intervals and it has been possible to maintain a routine of inspections on two half days per week for both inspectors.

The area was declared a Tuberculosis Eradication Area (with compulsory testing of cattle) as from 1st March 1955 and was subsequently declared an Attested Area (virtually free from bovine tuberculosis) from 1st October 1955. It will be noted from the table opposite that only one whole carcase has been condemned on account of tuberculosis and that the number of minor tubercular conditions is very small.

Butchers generally experienced severe condemnation of livers due to depredations of the liver fluke, probably due to the abnormal rains of the previous year.

Co-operation has continued to be given to Maryport Urban Council in the inspection of meat when required at their abattoir.

2. MILK

Samples of ungraded milk for the detection of Tubercle Bacilli were taken during the first six months of the year under delegation from the County Council. Following the declaration on the 1st October including the district in an Attested Area, the arrangements for sampling were terminated.

Of the 81 final samples taken, none were found to be affected.

A total of 23 dealer's licences, authorising the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk by persons other than the producer, were issued, an increase of two on the previous year.

SUMMARY OF SLAUGHTERING FOR THE YEAR 1955

	Bullocks	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Total number killed	83	636	—	1,001	706
a. All diseases except tuberculosis					
(1) Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	4	—
(2) Part carcase or organs condemned	10	119	—	149	8
(3) Percentage affected with diseases other than T.B.	12%	18.8%	—	15.3%	1.14%
b. Tuberculosis only					
(1) Whole carcase condemned	—	1	—	—	—
(2) Part carcase or organs condemned	—	11	—	—	8
(3) Percentage affected with T.B.	—	0.19%	—	—	0.11%

A total of 2,426 carcasses inspected during the year.

The causes of condemnation were as follows :

BULLOCKS : 8 Fascioliasis and cirrhosis of liver
1 Hydatid cyst in liver
1 Hydatid cyst in lungs

COWS AND HEIFERS :

1 Whole carcase with generalised tuberculosis
1 Tuberculosis of lungs
1 Tuberculosis of head
1 Tuberculosis of lungs and cirrhotic liver
79 Fascioliasis and cirrhosis of liver
2 Necrosis of liver
5 Abscess of liver
1 Cavernous angioma of liver
3 Telangiectasis of liver
2 Hydatid cyst of liver
3 Abscess of lungs
1 Telangiectasis of lungs
1 Hydatid cyst of lungs
1 Abscess of udder
1 Tongue with actinobacillosis
1 Actinomycosis of head
1 Inflammation of omentum
16 Unborn calves and calf beds
1 Unborn calf and calf bed and T.B. of lungs
1 Unborn calf and calf bed and telangiectasis of liver
1 Traumatic haematomatae due to impacted foetus

SHEEP :

4 Whole carcasses. Casualties—badly bled and set
140 Fascioliasis and cirrhosis of liver
2 *Cysticercus tenuicollis* in liver
1 Hydatid cyst in liver
1 Hydatid cyst in lungs
1 Hydatid cyst in kidney
2 *Cysticercus tenuicollis* on omentum

PIGS :

8 Tubercular heads
5 Livers with *Ascaris lumbricoides*
1 Inflammation of lungs and liver
1 *Cysticercus tenuicollis* on diaphragm
1 Heart with pericarditis

3. ICE CREAM

32 premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice-cream. In every case the ice cream is purchased from manufacturers outside the district and is sold in this district in pre-wrapped packages.

No ice cream is manufactured in the district.

2 inspections have been made of registered premises during 1955.

4. OTHER FOODS

No occasion has arisen necessitating the examination of other foods for unfitness.

5. BAKEHOUSES

No change has occurred in the number of registered bake-houses (3) and the circumstances in each are materially the same. It was found necessary during the year to curtail the activities of one enterprising person found to be carrying on a bakery business in a private house without adequate facilities.

CONTROL OF PESTS

The warm summer must certainly have had a beneficial effect on the fertility of the district's rat population requiring energetic measures against their numbers on the Council's refuse tips, sewage disposal works and on private premises.

There were indeed some re-infestations on refuse tips and these were believed to have resulted from the numbers of rats at large at the time, rather than to any lack of success of the original treatment.

Whereas 84 visits were made to Council owned land and property in connection with rats, only 25 visits were paid to private premises. There is undoubtedly an increasing use of Warfarin (anti blood-coagulant) among private persons which may in part account for the small number of notifications of infestations on private premises, while there were so many on local authority premises.

A list supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries showed that of 599 agricultural holdings in the district only 76 contracts were in force for destruction of rats by officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee.

FACTORIES

A total of 69 factories are entered in the Factories Register, 49 of these being equipped with power-driven machinery.

The following is a summary of the various trades or processes carried out :

	Powered	Non-powered
Joinery & Sawmilling	18	11
Motor Vehicle repairs	10	1
Quarrying	9	2
Blacksmithing	1	3
Cobbling & Shoemaking	2	2
Baking	3	—
Dressmaking	—	1
Heavy engineering	1	—
Polishing	1	—
Railway Waggon repairs	1	—
Laundry	1	—
Coach painting	1	—
Light Engineering	1	—

Building sites apart, only 15 inspections have been recorded as carried out specifically under the Factories Act and of these 11 were inspections of bakehouses. While the number of inspections is regrettably small, it must be placed on record that the sanitary conditions existing in factories generally are satisfactory. Of the inspections made during the year, no action, either informally or formally, was required.

The following table shows the position under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948, in this district at the end of 1955.

	No. on register	Inspections	Written notices	Defects found	Defects remedied
(i) Factories in which Sects. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	20	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the local authority	49	15	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the local authority	6	6	—	1	1
TOTALS	75	21	—	1	1

(Note : Section 1 refers to cleanliness, 2 to overcrowding, 3 to temperature, 4 to ventilation, 6 to drainage of floors, 7 to sanitary conveniences).

CAMPING

In contrast with the previous year when summer lasted about one week, prolonged warmth and sunshine this year brought literally thousands of campers to the district. With them came many problems to emphasise the weakness of the controlling legislation and the impracticability of checking the sanitary arrangements of such a scattered and mobile population.

Fortunately only one case of sickness came to the notice of the Health Department—an isolated case of Sonne Dysentery in a girl attending an organised school camp. The infection was subsequently found to have been contracted outside the district.

After the Council had considered a report outlining the difficulties of controlling camping, they authorised an investigation into the possibility of obtaining and developing a caravan site, initially in an area accessible to Borrowdale. However, an application was made by a private person for permission to develop such a site in the area which was to have been investigated. This, and the fact that the Lake District Planning Board and The National Trust were collaborating in the selection of a site actually in Borrowdale, resulted in the report on a Council-developed site being abandoned.

Licences for 10 sites and 7 individual caravans were in operation during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year a periodic review was made of the condition of two persons whom it was felt might be the subject of action under Section 47 of the Act. In one case, a man of 94 years living alone resisted all efforts at persuading him to enter voluntarily into a County Council Welfare Home. Eventually scalded legs, bedsores and fleas so incapacitated him that he volunteered to enter the Home.

Shortly afterwards he was transferred to Carlisle Infirmary for hospital treatment and in the early months of 1956 it was known that he had completely recovered and was again mentally and physically alert, and living in a County Welfare Home.

The second case—a woman of 85 years—is still under review but at present is certainly not “incapable of giving herself proper care and attention,” but is simply unwilling to do so.

SUMMARY OF VISITS OF INSPECTION DURING 1955

Ash-place, ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	12
Burials	...	...	...	...	...	—
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools, Sewage Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	8
Closets : Water	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pails	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy-middens	...	...	...	...	...	—
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies, Milkshops, Milkstores	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dangerous Structures	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains : Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	37
Tested	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dykes and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factories : sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	4
temp., ventilation, floor drains	...	...	...	...	...	—
Flooding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food & Drugs Act : Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other food shops	...	...	...	...	...	16
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	800
Food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat inspections	...	...	...	...	...	788
Houses inspected : Defects P.H.A. and H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	183
For Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	4
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	90
Re-inspections : P.H.A. & H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	98
For Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	54
Houses inspected for recording under Housing (Consolidation) Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
Housing Allocations	...	...	...	...	...	360
Infectious Diseases investigations	...	...	...	...	...	24
Re-inspections, Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	42
Meetings and Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	143
Misc. visits	...	...	...	...	...	231
Inspections re Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	34
Re-inspections re Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	29
Offensive trades premises	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pests Act	...	...	...	...	...	150
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	—
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	24
Samples : Milk	...	...	...	...	...	81
Water	...	...	...	...	...	38
Other	...	...	...	...	...	—
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sewage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	185
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	1
Temporary Dwellings and Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	13
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	34
National Assistance Act. Persons in need of care and attention	7



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